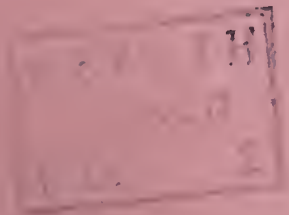


STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



1972

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Medical Officer of Health: ESTHER JACKSON, M.B. , CH.B. , D.P.H. , M.F.C.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector: F. HODSON, F.A.P.H.I. , M.I.P.H.E. , M.R.S.H.

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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Telephone: Sturminster Newton 72636
(STD Code 0258)

COUNCIL OFFICES
BATH ROAD
STURMINSTER NEWTON

Telephone number of
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Sturminster Newton 72651
(STD Code 0258)

HEALTH & PLANNING COMMITTEE 1972

Chairman: F. C. Gray Esq.

Vice-Chairman: L.G. Bailey Esq.

Mr. A. E. G. Blades
Mr. H. J. Campbell-Coles
Miss V. N. Cross, J.P.
Mrs. C. P. Donaldson
Mr. A. H. Hawson, A.R.I.B.A., D.A. (Edin.)

Mrs. M. F. H. Jeans
Mr. A. H. Lewis
Mr. Rex Ridout
Mr. M. E. Sharp
Mr. P. S. Stephens, C.M.G.

Ex-officio:

Miss M. D. Lane
Mr. A. Dufosse

STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Joint appointment) - Esther Jackson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Clerk - Mrs. A. Smith

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR - F. Hodson, F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.
Part time only on public health

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS -

R. K. Raymond (to 30th April 1972)
M. F. Capon, M.A.P.H.I.)
S. Barratt, M.A.P.H.I.)

Each inspector working one day in the Sturminster District and the rest of the week in Shaftesbury Rural District. This arrangement was made in accordance with nationally agreed policy for the period before Re-organisation of Local Governments.

Clerk - Miss J. Heap (to 13th June 1972)
- Miss D. Tite (from September 1972)

STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1972

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	45,364
Registrar General's Estimated Mid-Year Population	11,470
Number of dwellings	4,081
Rateable value (at 1st April 1972)	£288,595
Product of penny rate	£2,840

REORGANISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In the middle of last century the country's first Medical Officer of Health was appointed. Since that time public health measures and technological advances have reduced the death rate among infants and young people and medical skills have enabled people to live longer and the population of our country has multiplied exceedingly. As a result it has become necessary to change the present system of Local Government. Districts such Sturminster Rural with small populations are to be amalgamated with neighbouring areas for local government purposes. Further changes are also planned in the division of responsibility for such things as refuse collection and disposal, sewerage and water supplies. Your public health inspector has been carrying out during the year all his usual duties which protect the public health but he has also been giving his time to meet with colleagues from areas with which Sturminster will be joined in order to formulate forward plans for the new District which takes over on 1st April 1974.

The National Health Service is also due to be reorganised on 1st April 1974. Since the present N.H.S. was devised in the nineteen forties there has been a dramatic change in the death rate from infectious diseases and in the survival rate of severely handicapped infants and so in the life expectation of the average man and woman and in the pattern of illness and patients requiring care. This means that the health care needs of the country have changed and the Re-organisation is being designed to suit the changed needs. Since the 1947 National Health Service Act, health care has been administered through three different services, namely family doctors, Local Authority health staff and hospitals. The three services were financed from separate budgets and had different organisational structures. The N.H.S. Re-organisation Bill has not yet been passed by Parliament but among the changes in health care organisation will be the removal from Local Authorities of their health staff and the end of the statutory appointment of Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS registered		1972			1971	1970
		Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Live Births	Total	95	79	174	142	163
	Legitimate	93	76	169	136	156
	Illegitimate	2	3	5	6	7
Still Births	Total	1	1	2	2	3
	Legitimate	1	1	2	2	3

DEATHS registered		1972			1971	1970
		Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Total		84	80	164	153	172
Maternal deaths				nil	nil	nil
Deaths of infants under						
1 year of age: Total		3	1	4	1	3
Legitimate		3	1	4	1	3
Under 4 weeks of age - Total		2	1	3	0	2
Under 1 week of age - Total		2	1	3	0	2

The following table of figures shows the birth rates etc. for the Sturminster Rural area and the rates for England and Wales for comparison.

In calculating Birth and Death Rates Area Comparability Factors are used by the Registrar General to "correct" marked variations from average in the age and sex structure of the local populations and to take into account any unusually high or low mortality due to the presence of residential institutions etc. The local crude rate multiplied by the area comparability factor produces a rate comparable with rates in other parts of the country.

	Sturminster Area		England & Wales	
	1972	1971	1972	1971
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.2	12.7	14.8	16.0
Area comparability factor	1.19	1.28	1.0	1.0
Local adjusted rate	18.1	16.3	14.8	16.0
Illegitimate live births as % of all live births	3	4	9	8
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	11	14	12	12
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	23	7	17	18
I.M.R. of legitimate infants	24	7	17	17
I.M.R. of illegitimate infants	-	-	21	24
Neonatal mortality rate				
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live born)	17	-	12	12
Early neonatal mortality rate				
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live born)	17	-	10	10
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	28	14	22	22
Deaths per 1,000 population	14.3	13.7	12.1	11.6
Area comparability factor	0.67	0.68	1.0	1.0
Local adjusted death rate	9.6	9.3	12.1	11.6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR

	1972			Total	Total
	Male	Female	Total	1971	1970
Tuberculosis - all forms	0	0	0	0	0
Other Infective illnesses	0	1	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasma					
Lung and bronchus	4	1	5	7	4
Breast	0	2	2	5	4
Uterus	-	3	3	1	0
Prostate	2	-	2	2	3
Stomach & Intestines	4	5	9	8	9
Leukaemia	0	0	0	0	1
Other sites	9	5	14	7	7
Diabetes mellitus	1	2	3	0	0
Other endocrine etc. diseases	0	0	0	0	0
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	1	0	1	1	4
Ischaemic heart disease	25	29	54	42	43
Cerebrovascular disease	9	12	21	28	30
Other heart & circulatory system disease	16	14	30	29	30
Influenza	0	0	0	0	4
Pneumonia	4	1	5	3	6
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	0	3	2	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0	2	2	1
Ulcer and diseases of digestive system	1	1	2	0	1
Other diseases of liver and intestines	0	0	0	0	0
Diseases of kidney and genito-urinary system	0	1	1	0	2
Congenital anomalies & other causes of perinatal mortality	2	1	3	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	0	1	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0	3	0
All other accidents	0	1	1	5	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	0	1	2	2
	84	80	164	153	169

Figures for previous years are included for comparison. It is apparent that the list of numbers dying in the population of this area has little meaning unless compared with figures for the whole country; any seeming difference in trends and figures are artifacts due to the relatively small numbers of deaths in the area which has a population of 11,470

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A. International quarantine regulations diseases

SMALLPOX

As I reported in the Annual Report for 1971 smallpox is now endemic in only a small number of countries of the world, and vaccination certificates are not needed for most holiday travel. Routine vaccination of children has been discontinued.

Travellers to some parts of the world are still advised to be vaccinated against smallpox and the stamping of international certificates to validate the doctors signature is still carried out in your Public Health Department.

CHOLERA

In England we are able still to enjoy hygienic disposal of human excreta and an excellent water supply so it is unlikely that we will experience a serious epidemic of cholera but the possibility of outbreaks must be taken seriously. Vaccination has little part to play in the control of cholera in many parts of the world. Anyone from England travelling in an endemic area may well be advised to be vaccinated against cholera for his own

CHOLERA - continued

personal protection. However a valid certificate of vaccination against cholera held by someone returning to England serves no purpose to the community; the holder could be a symptomless excreter of cholera vibrios. The protection of the public is achieved by your concern for proper sewage disposal, a good water supply and a high standard of hygiene in all places where food is stored, prepared and eaten.

B. Diseases against which immunisation is offered in the United Kingdom.

TUBERCULOSIS

BCG vaccination is offered to those children during their second or third year at secondary school, who, on testing, are found to lack immunity. BCG vaccination is also offered by the hospital service to such younger children who are known to have been in contact with tuberculosis.

1 new case of tuberculosis was notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA

Again no notification was received and it is many years since a case was notified in the district. Immunisation of young children and subsequent booster doses is undoubtedly responsible for this satisfactory freedom from infection.

POLIOMYELITIS

No case has been notified for many years in this district. Again vaccination with oral poliomyelitis vaccine is responsible for the local freedom from this disease. Primary vaccination is given during the second half of the first year of life with a booster dose before school entry and another booster at 10 years old. For those children who are not taken to their family doctor at 10 or 11 years of age arrangements were made for the booster dose to be given in school during the 12th year of age.

WHOOPING COUGH

No case was notified during the year.

TETANUS

This disease is a severe and dangerous illness and active immunisation is offered to babies with a booster just before school entry and a further booster at 10 years old. As in the case of vaccination against poliomyelitis a reminder is given to parents of school children who were not taken to their family doctor at 10 or 11 years of age.

MEASLES

Vaccination against measles sometimes produces a reaction comparable to a very mild and brief attack of measles. In 1968 one of the two strains of vaccine in use was withdrawn and for a time there was a shortage of vaccine so that the level of vaccination has fallen below that which would eradicate this unpleasant disease.

9 cases of measles were notified during 1972.

GERMAN MEASLES

In July 1970 the Department of Health recommended that vaccination against rubella (german measles) should be offered to all girls between their 11th and 14th birthdays. Vaccination in 1972 was carried out by family doctors helped by the school health service.

VACCINATION STATISTICS 1972

The term vaccination is now used internationally for procedures which in this country we used to describe as vaccination and immunisation

DISTRICT	POLIOMYELITIS		DIPHTHERIA		TETANUS		WHOOPING		BCG	MEASLES	RUBELLA
	ORAL						COUGH				
	P	R					P	R			
Sturminster R.D.C.	122	306	128	147	128	204	128	23	109	93	59
P = Primary course R = Reinforcing dose											

These figures are supplied by the County Medical Officer and refer to vaccinations of children.

It is not possible to compare these figures directly with those for previous years because in 1968 new schedules for the timing of injections etc. were introduced.

Vaccinations are now usually started at 5 months of age and it is no longer necessary to give a booster dose of anti-diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus at 18-20 months. Boosters are given at about 4 years (i.e. before entry into school) and at 10 years.

C. Infections against which routine vaccination is not offered

2 cases of infective hepatitis were notified during the year. Research workers in various parts of the country are continuing to try to find out more about the epidemiology of this condition.

FOOD POISONING AND DYSENTERY

No case of food poisoning or of dysentery was notified during the year.

INFESTATIONS

Lice and nits have once again ceased to be a rarity among school children. This is probably a reflection of the fashion for longer, loose hair among women and men. Most of the infestations reported to the Health Authority were among school children; older patients usually go direct to their general medical practitioner for treatment and as the condition is not notifiable actual numbers of infestations are not known.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The Public Health Laboratory Service has continued to give excellent service. The Dorchester Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. G. H. Tee has dealt with nearly all the work from this area.

Brucellosis in humans is not a notifiable disease but public interest in the scheme for eradication of brucellosis from dairy cattle has increased awareness of the possibility of brucellosis infection in humans and the laboratory has again examined specimen material sent in by family doctors from their patients.

IMMIGRANTS

When many Asians were expelled from Uganda in the late summer reception centres were arranged in Districts quite near to Sherborne but there was no influx of immigrants into Sturminster Rural District.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951

I am happy to be able to report that it has not been necessary to take any formal action under this Act by which the Magistrates can order the removal of an elderly person living in unsatisfactory circumstances and unable to care for himself but unwilling to be admitted to hospital when a bed is available. Some people were referred to the Medical Officer of Health but were persuaded to accept help, and the County's Social Workers were available to be called in to advise.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgement must again be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Sturminster Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee, the Sturminster Silver Thread Club, the Rotary Club and the W.R.V.S.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES AND TRADES OF THE DISTRICT

This is principally an agricultural district, though there are two sawmills and two milk factories. There are one or two small industries at Stalbridge, one where boats are built and another dealing with scrap metal. More new light industrial firms have been established at the Butts Pond site in Sturminster Newton (shopfitters, plastic models etc.)

On the other hand, several well established shops in the Sturminster area have closed down. The trend towards multiple stores seems to be continuing with a corresponding loss of convenient small shops in some of the villages.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supply

The water authority providing public supplies is the Dorset Water Board.

During the year 132 samples were taken and all were satisfactory.

Shortages of water have occurred in the Stalbridge, Marnhull and Fifehead Magdalen areas. These shortages were not due to a lack of water but rather to inadequacy of mains now that there has been a relatively large amount of housing development in the Stalbridge and Marnhull areas.

Private Supplies

All the properties in the District are served by public water mains with the exception of the following which are supplied from springs or bore holes:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Dwellings</u>	<u>Population</u>
Glanvilles Wootton	10	30
Okeford Fitzpaine	5	15
Stoke Wake	6	18
Stourton Caundle	4	12
Woolland	32	83

In addition, there are five or six properties in the District drawing water from private wells.

The few farms and cottages at Glanvilles Wootton in the region of The Manor House are served by a spring supply which is often failing, and is of variable quality, though in this case the main source of supply can be supplemented by another in an emergency. At the present time the Water Board's mains nearest to the properties is not sufficient to supply them as the pressure is inadequate, but the new main to be laid by the Water Board will make available a supply to these dwellings.

The chief supply in the parish of Woolland and part of Belchalwell which is from a land spring, continues to be satisfactory in quantity and reasonable in quality.

There are a few isolated cottages with private supplies. 30 samples have been submitted and all reports were good except from Ivy Cottage, Woolland where results have been unsatisfactory. The new water main planned for the area is not yet available so the residents in Ivy Cottage have been advised not to use raw water for drinking etc.

WATER SUPPLY - continuedNitrate estimations

6 supplies were tested for nitrate content. The concentration varied between 1.7 and 4.8.

These results are well within normal limits and indicate that the use of artificial fertilisers is not endangering the purity of the water supply.

Results of CHEMICAL ANALYSES are as follows:

	<u>Alton Pancras</u>	<u>Ibberton</u>	<u>Okeford</u>
Date of Sample	<u>13.12.72</u>	<u>4.9.72</u>	<u>23.8.72</u>
Reaction, pH value	7.4	7.4	7.1
Equilibrium, pH _s	7.4	7.4	7.2
Colour	Colourless	Colourless	Colourless
Turbidity	2	4	4
Conductivity, micromhos/cm ³ at 20°C	435	315	390
Taste	Pleasant	Pleasant	Pleasant
Odour	Odourless	Odourless	Odourless
Total Solids (dried at 180°C)	-	-	-
Suspended Solids	-	-	-
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	310	200	260
Residual Chlorine as Cl ₂	-	-	-
Residual NH ₂ Cl	-	-	-
Temporary Hardness as CaCO ₃ (Carbonate)	209	120	174
Permanent Hardness as CaCO ₃ (Non-Carbonate)	45	50	42
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (by EDTA)	254	170	216
Calcium Hardness as CaCO ₃ (by EDTA)	238	160	204
Magnesium Hardness as CaCO ₃ (by difference)	16	10	12
Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	237	150	196
Free Carbon Dioxide as CO ₂	19	12	31
Iron in Solution as Fe	-	-	-
Total Iron as Fe	Nil	Nil	Nil
Silica as SiO ₂	10.4	8.0	8.2
Nitrogen in Nitrates	2.8	2.8	1.7
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Nil	Nil	Nil
Free Ammonia as NH ₃	-	-	-
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia as NH ₃	-	-	-
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N	<0.01	0.01	<0.01
Chlorine in Chlorides as Cl	16	15	14
Sulphates as SO ₄	14	9	17
Fluorides as F	0.1	0.1	0.1
Phosphates as PO ₄	0.1	0.08	0.2
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hrs at 37°C)	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05
Dissolved Oxygen	-	-	-
Copper	-	-	-
Lead	-	-	-
Zinc	-	-	-
Sodium and Potassium	Na 13.0, K0.9	Na 13.0, K1.0	Na 13.5, K2.9
Synthetic Detergents	-	-	-

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Council's Consulting Engineers have continued preparatory work for a new sewage disposal works to serve the parish of Stalbridge and a large part of the parish of Marnhull.

The contractors employed to empty cesspools within the District have continued to carry out their work in a satisfactory manner. The Council's old refuse tip at Fifehead Neville is still available as a disposal site. The new Regional Water Authority may be well advised to secure that in new schemes adequate provision is made for the reception of cesspool and septic tank contents which are at present disposed of on farm land.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) The collection of refuse is on a fortnightly basis throughout the District and special collections of household refuse are made when a lorry is available. There continues to be a considerable increase in the amount of refuse collected. The number of special collections of bulky items has increased throughout the year. A small number of trade refuse collections are made and a special paper salvage collection is carried out from shops once a fortnight.

The Council operates a kerbside collection, but in cases of old or infirm people, will collect from the rear of the premises on payment of 50p per annum, though relatively few people take advantage of this.

It proved impossible to establish a weekly collection in the more densely populated parishes because there was no response by drivers holding H.G.V. license to advertisements issued by the Council.

A new refuse vehicle has been ordered for delivery during 1973.

(b) Salvage sales during the year have been disappointing.

Non ferrous metal sold value	£15
Other items	£25

(c) There has not been very much trouble arising at laybys in this District. At all the recognised laybys the County Council provides litter stands and these are emptied by our men when they pass the spot and also as necessary by the County Council's own vehicles.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

No action has been taken by the Local Authority but the River Authority has taken action on several occasions - usually trouble arising from the discharge of trade effluent from farms (mostly silage).

This kind of pollution is likely to occur from time to time, and unfortunately takes quite a long time to clear, whatever action is taken officially. With the increase in factory farming methods, it is likely that cases of pollution may increase.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No. of inspectors appointed under the Act	2 (part time)
Estimated No. of Premises subject to registration	85
No. of Premises registered	80
No. of Premises inspected	60
No. of inspections carried out	99

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

No. of premises registered under the Act	1
No. of inspections carried out	2

Two more are under construction.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is no swimming bath to which the public have access. Several schools have paddling or swimming pools; these pools are visited and checked by the County Chief Public Health Inspector.

CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No. of licensed sites	11
Nature of sites	Individual residential also 6 sites approved by Caravan and Camping Club
No. of inspections	19 (including gypsy sites)
One school camping site (summer only)	

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Flies	1)	Treatment by use of sprays and/or powders (proprietary brands)
Ants	17)	
Fleas	1)	
Cockroaches	15)	

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There is only one public convenience in the District, at the car park, Station Road, Sturminster Newton; this has washing facilities (cold water only). This is frequently damaged by vandals.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent control work is carried out under the supervision of Sherborne U.D.C's Senior Public Health Inspector. The area controlled comprises the Rural Districts of Beaminster, Shaftesbury, Sherborne and Sturminster, Sherborne U.D. and Shaftesbury Borough.

Treatments 388	Visits 1,500
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PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No. of licensed premises	2
No. of inspections made	7

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	41	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	50	35	1	-
Total	104	78	2	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

SANITATION IN SCHOOLS

Thorough investigation was made after the receipt of a complaint about possibly inadequate provision of WC's and washing facilities at Sturminster Junior school where the school population has grown greatly over the years. The sanitary accommodation was discussed with the County officers and improvements are planned.

HOUSING

Total number of houses in the district at 1.4.72 4081

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected	97
No. of inspections made	253
No. of informal notices served	5
No. of informal notices complied with	3
No. of Statutory Notices served	nil
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	nil

The tremendous increases in prices recently paid for old cottages has made the assessment of "reasonable expense" a ludicrous exercise.

No Clearance Area was declared.

There are still a few cottages in this district in poor condition, however most of these are occupied by elderly people, usually owner/occupiers, and in these circumstances it is the Council's policy to take no action(except in case of emergency) until the premises become empty. Quite often such properties are bought by people who wish to recondition them at what would officially be an unreasonable expense, and very good properties are made which fit in far better with the rural scene than a more modern building.

Housing Act 1964. Section 13

No action was taken under this Section.

Overcrowding

No case of 'statutory' overcrowding was found.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No house is known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954

No application was received for a certificate of disrepair.

Improvement Grants

(a) Private dwelling houses

No. of applications received during the year

	(i) <u>Standard</u>	(ii) <u>Discretionary</u>
No. granted	13	18
No. pending	2	6

(b) Council houses

An application was approved by the Department for the improvement of 60 Council houses.

There has been no change during the year in the Council's policy relating to improvement grants.

HOUSING - Council houses - continued

It is unfortunate that the Government propaganda relating to improvement grants tends to mislead applicants into thinking that grants are more readily available than they are. The local authorities still have discretion to approve or reject applications for improvement grants, and in spite of Government pressure there is no redress against a refusal. The local authority is best able to judge whether or not grants should be paid for the improvement of houses, and this is particularly important now that an applicant may dispose of a property immediately after having received a grant.

New houses

No. of new dwellings provided by private enterprise during the year	63
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No. of new dwellings provided by the Local Authority during the year	24
--	----

Re-housing

Total No. of families housed during the year by the Local Authority	65
---	----

Housing Applications

No. of families who are applicants for a Council house at the end of the year	
(a) resident within the District	118
(b) resident without the District	12

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

The Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration	2
No. of 'dairies' in the District subject to registration	Nil
No. of 'distributors' subject to registration	10

1. Samples

Regular sampling is undertaken by the Dorset County Council

Total number of samples taken	73
Number satisfactory	70
Failed methylene blue test	3

Among samples of raw milk also examined for *Brucella Abortus* two were found positive to the Ring Test but further follow-up sampling was satisfactory and no action was taken by the Council.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Reg. 19-20

No action was called for during the year under these Regulations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES - continued

2. Other Food Premises

(a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Details of food premises subject to the above, grouped in categories of trade carried on in them

<u>Trade</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>	
Hotels	5	
Cafes	6	
Public Houses	25	
Clubs	3	
Church Halls	4	
Canteens - Schools	11	
Confectioners	5	
Meat and Fish	10	
Grocers	12	
Mixed Stores	21	
Boarding Schools	3	
Food Factories	2	
Others	<u>10</u>	
	117	
No. of such premises inspected during the year		117
No. of inspections carried out		204

(b) No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955

(i)	Ice Cream	47
(ii)	Sausages & Prepared Meats	10
(iii)	Fish & Chips	1

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test by Public Health Inspectors 6

(c) Method in use for disposal of condemned food:

Small quantities buried at refuse tip

(d) Bye-laws in respect of handling and wrapping of food etc. are operative in the district

3. Slaughterhouses

No. of licensed slaughterhouses in the district 2

No. of licensed knackers yards in the district 1

One of the slaughterhouses closed during the year.

Meat Inspection

(a) At Slaughterhouses

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned - 1972

* Slaughterhouses at: MAN = Manston BR = Bath Road	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs		Goats	
	* BR.	MAN	BR	MAN	BR	MAN	BR	MAN	BR	MAN	BR	MAN
Number killed	43	309	2	4942	3	1030	-	9146	-	749	-	127
Number inspected	43	309	2	4942	3	1030	-	9146	-	749	-	127
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>												
Whole carcasses condemned	-	18	-	306	-	173	-	234	-	86	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ is condemned	8	19	-	2250	-	43	-	3488	-	86	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.6	11.1	-	51.7	-	21.5	-	40.7	-	23.2	-	1.6
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>												
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil	Nil		Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil	2		Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil	0.27		Nil
<u>Cysticercosis only</u>	No part or organ was condemned											

Slaughterhouse hygiene must be maintained at a high level and this is most difficult in respect of small slaughterhouses which do not justify the appointment of a fulltime meat inspector. Cross contamination can easily occur during the dressing of carcasses and it is, of course, impossible to supervise the work under the present system.

40 meat inspections were also made at butchers and other shops.

Other Food

Particulars of quantities condemned or detained:

14 lbs. cod fillets.

Regular swabbings of equipment were carried out, all of which were satisfactory.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There is now no poultry processing premise in the District.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2721
Total No. of informal notices served	33
Total No. of informal notices complied with	25
Total No. of statutory notices served	nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	nil
Total No. of prosecutions	nil

N.B. This figure does not include visits to slaughterhouses for meat inspection or visits under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

OTHER MATTERS

(a) Intensive farming

No serious complaints have arisen during the year apart from river pollution but intensive farming units form one of the sources of nuisance as they increase in size and number, together with the possibility of rivers pollution already referred to.

(b) General matters

Preparation for reorganisation of local government in the form of reports and statistical data to the Joint Committee of the five constituent Authorities is now taking more of the department's time. It also appears that the Government is to proceed with the forming of a comprehensive Water Authority, which will for the first time bring under single control water conservation, distribution and reclamation, including sewage disposal.

